9. *Labeo* sp. young specimens.
10. *Cirrhino cirrhosa* (Bloch).
11. *Cirrhina reba* (Ham.).
12. *Amblypharyngodon mola* (Ham.).
13. *Barbus sophore* (Ham.).
14. *Barbus sarana* (Ham.).
15. *Barbus arulius* (Jerdon).
16. *Barbus ticto* (Ham.).
17. *Barbus* sp. (Large-scaled Barbel).
18. *Barilius bendelisis* (Ham.).
19. *Chela clupeoides* (Bloch).

BAGRIDÆ.

20. *Mystus cavasius* (Ham.).

SILURIDÆ.

21. *Wallago attu* (Bloch).

XENENTODONTIDÆ.

22. *Xenentodon cancila* (Ham.).

OPHICEPHALIDÆ.

23. *Ophicephalus punctatus* Bloch.

AMBASSIDÆ.

24. *Ambassis ranga* (Ham.).

GOBIIDÆ.

25. *Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.).

AHMEDABAD, H. G. ACHARYA,
NORTH GUJRAT, F.Z.S.
September 6, 1938.

XXVI.—A CASE OF POISONING FROM THE BITE OF A SPIDER.

In the accompanying parcel I am sending you a large black Tarantula-like Spider. I think it is dead but please be careful when opening the tin. I did not know one got these creatures in India. My *mali* was cutting some low jungle in the garden yesterday when it ran up his arm and bit him near the elbow. His arm began to swell immediately and became very painful. The swelling had the appearance of a lump with small blisters beneath the skin, covering an area of some four square inches. He found it difficult to bend the elbow after about two hours. After treatment the symptoms subsided within 24 hours except for a slight stiffness and soreness. There was no fever. The bite drew

blood in one place. Could you very kindly name the spider for me and be so good as to let me know if its occurrence is at all rare.

GAUHATI,
KAMRUP DISTRICT, R. E. PARSONS.
ASSAM.
October 29, 1938.

[The spider referred to by Mr. Parsons is one of the large Mygalomorph spiders, commonly known as 'Tarantulas'. It has been identified by Dr. Gravely as *Cheliobrachys* sp. The name *Tarantula* is derived from Tarentum a town in Italy, and originally was applied to a species of Lycosid or Wolf Spider which is common in the Mediterranean countries. The term is now generally extended to the large Mygalomorph spiders so widely distributed in the tropics of which a number of genera and species occur in India. The most remarkable of the Indian forms are the spiders of the genus Poecilotheria; great hairy creatures some large enough to cover the span of a man's hand. Despite their forbidding appearance, these spiders do not usually bite except under extreme provocation. All spiders possess a pair of poison glands opening near the tip of the fangs, but few seem to have the power of injecting their poison into human beings. It is believed that the poison is not automatically injected whenever the fangs are used but is under the spider's control and that the venom is economised when a simple wound is sufficient for the purpose. This probably explains the divergent views regarding the effect of a spider's bite. We have no precise knowledge regarding the effects of poisoning by the various Indian forms of Mygalomorph spiders. Dr. Gravely in his article on Indian Spiders (*J.B.N.H.S.*, xxviii, p. 1045) refers to a case communicated to him by Dr. Sutherland of Kalimpong in which a boy of 14 years was bitten in the finger by a well grown female of the species *Macrothele vidua*. The pain extended up to the arms and down the side. After 24 hours the finger was still swollen. In a second instance recorded by Dr. Gravely, the victim of a much larger species *Chilobrachys fumosus* suffered no ill effects beyond a slight local swelling. Dr. Gravely suggests that the feeble effects in this instance might have been due to the spider having emptied its poison glands under the irritation to which it was previously subjected. Drops of poison were seen exuding from the tips of its fangs. No precise experiments have been carried out with the Indian species: but Mons. B. Houssay has demonstrated that some of the large Mygalomorph spiders of the Argentine are highly venomous to animals and present some danger to man. Full grown rabbits, guinea pigs and pigeons may be killed in a few minutes. In Man the bite of certain species produces intense pain, local swelling accompanied with fever and delirium and may in children and persons in ill health, result in death. Aguilar (*Rec. de la Soc. Med. Argentina*, xvi, 1908) records the death of a child of 7 years who succumbed to the effect of the bite of one of these large spiders, 7 days after being bitten. There is also

the authenticated case (*Insect Life*, I, 1889, p. 205) of the death of a farm labourer bitten by a spider *Latrodectus mactans*. In this instance the victim was bitten at half past eight in the morning and died between 11 and 12 o'clock in the night. Small pimples were raised in the neighbourhood of the bite. Intermittent pains and spasms ended in a comatose condition from which the man did not rally. *Latrodectus* is a Theridid whose poisonous reputation almost rivals the Tarantula. It is regarded as particularly dangerous in such widely spread regions of the world as Madagascar, New Zealand, Algeria, the West Indies and North America.—Eds.]

XXVII.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN BUTTERFLIES AT NASIK.

1. **Gomalia elma albofasciata** (African Marbled Skipper).

A single specimen of this insect, a male, was taken in a garden in Nasik in June 1938. It is at present in my private collection and is available for examination if required. According to Evans, *Identification of Indian Butterflies*, this insect is shown to range from South India as far North as Poona and to be rare everywhere, it appears from this that its occurrence in Nasik, some distance North of Poona is even more rare, being at the extreme limit of its previously recorded range.

2. **Kallima philarchus horsfieldii** (Blue Oakleaf).

A specimen of this butterfly was taken in December 1938 in a garden in Nasik. The one taken was a female, and is in fairly good condition, only one hind wing being slightly damaged. Another of the same species was seen, but not taken, near Bhandadara, some 40 miles from Nasik during the month of August. The identification has been made by reference to the same authority.

Nasik, C. J. RAE,
January 3, 1939. *Executive Engineer.*

XXVIII.—AN IMPROVED CELLOPHANE WING MOUNT.

In a previous note (1936 *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, xxxviii, 634) I described a method of mounting the wings of Lepidoptera on cards under cellophane. Time has shewn that the method then described is not altogether satisfactory and the present one has been evolved in order to get over the various drawbacks.

Materials required:—Visiting, or other suitable, cards, moisture proof cellophane and a suitable adhesive, such as Gripfix. Moisture proof cellophane should be used in preference to ordinary as it is not affected by changes in humidity.

A suitable sized window is cut out of one card (the cover) with a sharp knife or razor blade and any projecting edges at the back of